an>

Title: Status of Kannada language.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, today I am bringing to your kind notice the issue regarding the mistake committed by the Railway Ministry in connection with the destination boards on trains. The languages used on these boards are English and Hindi only, but as far as Kannada and Tamil languages are concerned, they are trying to remove Kannada language from these boards but are trying to save the Tamil language on these boards.

The Railway Board has decided that the destination boards on trains should be written/painted/printed in Hindi and English languages only. However, the train boards for primary maintenance in coaching depots in Tamil Nadu State may also be written in the regional language, that is, Tamil along with Hindi and English.

The Government of India has issued orders in this regard on 29.11.2006. Accordingly, the South Western Railway authorities, Mysore have also issued a notice in pursuance of the said order of the Government of India for following the Railway Board's letter dated 22.11.2006. This has been sent for information and necessary orders in all primary maintenance trains. For this act of the Government of India, after seeing the order, the people of Karnataka and various associations/organizations of Kannada Sanagatanam including the senior MLA of Karnataka, Shri Vatala Nagaraj and the Sahithi Shri Sachhidanand Murthy have raised strong protests against the Government's orders.

In this connection, Dr. Siddhalingaiah, President, Kannada Development Authority, Shri S.R. Govindu, Shri Prabhakar Reddy, DSS Leader Shri N. Murthy along with thousands of people with black flags sat in front of Raj Bhavan.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Sir, I demand the withdrawal of the said Government Order in the larger interest of six crore Kannadigas. If the said order is not going to be withdrawn within 15 days, the people of Karnataka will demonstrate a State-wide bandh for this cause.

Sir, we are living in India under one umbrella of Indian Constitution along with respecting the religion, caste, region, custom and language of the respective States. Their rights are protected under the Indian Constitution. Whereas, in this case, the order of the Government of India is violating the principles of Indian Constitution.

It is very unfortunate to see the order stating "Remove Kannada Save Tamil". Now, thousands of people travel from Karnataka in Swarna Jayanti Express, Tuthukudi Express and Mumbai Sharavathi Express. But unfortunately, these Kannadigas have no occasion to see Kannada boards and if they have not studied Hindi or English, how could they read these boards.

Sir, the Government of India has recognized Tamil as a classical language, but Kannada has not been recognized as a classical language. This is the most unfortunate thing for the entire six crore Kannadigas.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : We are celebrating this year as "Suvarna Karnataka" in Karnataka. Therefore, I earnestly request the Government to consider Kannada as a classical language in this Suvarna Karnataka Year.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Therefore, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the Railway Board's order at the earliest to uphold the sentiments of Kannada people...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (BELLARY): Sir, I would like to associate with Shri Manjunath Kunnur.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. Shri M. Shivanna is also associated with the matter raised by Shri Manjunath Kunnur.